

Message Text

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ORIGIN OC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 SS-20 L-03 EB-11 INR-10

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AF/S:RDOLS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135241

E.O. 11652: GDS.

TAGS: ACOM, PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: US AND SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC RADIO RIGHTS

REF: PRETORIA 2619

1. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS (WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK - UN) DO NOT OPERATE THEIR OWN HF OR VHF RADIO FACILITIES IN U.S. THEY USE COMMERCIAL INTERNATIONAL TELEX SERVICE PROVIDED BY U.S. COMMON CARRIERS (ITT AND WUI) AS PRIMARY MEANS COMMUNICATIONS. WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THEM HAVING BACK-UP RADIO FACILITIES, NOR HAVE WE HAD ANY REPORTS TO INDICATE SUCH A RADIO FACILITY HAS BEEN ACTIVATED IN THE PAST.

2. BASIC LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR AUTHORIZING A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE A RADIO TRANSMITTING FACILITY IN U.S. IS PL87-795, 75 STAT. 903 OCTOBER 11, 1973, A COPY WHICH WILL BE SENT VIA AIR POUCH SOONEST. LEGISLATION EMPOWERS THE PRESIDENT TO AUTHORIZE A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A LOW POWER RADIO STATION AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AT OR NEAR THE SITE OF THE EMBASSY OF SUCH FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. THIS AUTHORIZATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE

RADIO STATION IS IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND THAT THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CONCERNED HAS PROVIDED RECIPROCAL PRIVILEGES TO THE U.S. FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

OF A RADIO STATION WITHIN THE TERRITORY SUBJECT TO THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT'S JURISDICTION. THE PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY HAS BEEN DELEGATED TO DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY. SUCH AN AUTHORIZATION MAY BE MADE ONLY UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

3. LEGAL AUTHORITY PERMITS ONLY THE OPERATION OF HF RADIO-TELETYPE FACILITIES. IT DOES NOT PERMIT THE OPERATION OF VHF MOBILE RADIO NETS OR SIMILAR OPERATIONS.

4. CERTAIN TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS ARE LEVIED UPON THE OPERATION OF SUCH A RADIO FACILITY, SUCH AS POWER, FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENT MODE OF TRANSMISSION ETC.

5. DEPARTMENT RECORDS INDICATE THAT IN EXCHANGE OF NOTES, SAG PERMITS THE OPERATION OF RADIO BACK-UP FACILITY IN OUR EMBASSY BUT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE OR REQUEST FOR RECIPROCAL RIGHTS.

6. SINCE EMBASSY DID NOT INFORM DEPT. WHAT THE MATERIAL REQUESTED IN REFTEL IS NEEDED FOR - PLEASE FORWARD PARTICULARS. HAS SAG QUESTIONED OR ASKED FOR SIMILAR OPERATING RIGHTS IN U.S.? KISSINGER

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